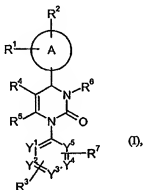


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of the general formula (I)



(I).

wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R¹, R² and R³ independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy or C₁-C₆-alkoxy, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl and C₁-C₆-alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C₁-C₄-alkoxy,

R⁴ represents trifluoromethylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, C₂-C₆-alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl, C₆-C₁₀-arylaminocarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclycarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocycyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkyl-carbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl,

aminocarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino-carbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonylamino, *N*-(C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl)-*N*-(C₁-C₄-alkyl)-amino, cyano, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl, and wherein heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl can be further substituted with C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, which can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, arylamino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and the radical -O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

or

R⁵ represents amino,

R⁶ represents

— a group of the formula -T-U wherein

T represents a C₁-C₆-alkanediyl or C₂-C₆-alkenediyl group

and

U represents

- C₆-C₁₀-aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl each of which is substituted by one, two or three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and a group of the formula -V-W wherein V represents a bond or a C₁-C₆-alkanediyl or C₂-C₆-alkenediyl group both of which can be further substituted by C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, and W represents C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,
- a group of the formula -C(=O)-NR^a-SO₂-R^b wherein R^a represents hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^b represents C₁-C₆-alkyl

which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^b represents C_6 - C_{10} -aryl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, halogen, cyano, nitro or trifluoromethyl,

- a group of the formula $-C(=O)-NR^cR^d$ wherein R^c represents hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, and R^d represents C_6 - C_{10} -aryl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

- ~~a group of the formula $-C(=O)-NR^e-OR^f$ wherein R^e and R^f independently from each other represent hydrogen or C_1 - C_6 -alkyl,~~

or

- C_6 - C_{10} -aryloxy which, in the aryl part, can be substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

R^6 represents

- C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl which can be substituted by up to three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy-carbonyl and hydroxycarbonyl,
- C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxy-carbonyl,
- C_1 - C_6 -alkyl or C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl which are substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl-amino,
- C_3 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl which is substituted by phenyl- C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl which for its part, in the phenyl moiety, can be further substituted by halogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

- a group of the formula $\text{-SO}_2\text{-R}^{\text{E}}$ wherein R^{E} represents $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$ which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^{E} represents $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}\text{-aryl}$ which can be substituted by $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxy-carbonyl}$ or hydroxycarbonyl,

R^7 represents halogen, nitro, cyano, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, hydroxy or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxy}$, wherein $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$ and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxy}$ can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$,

and

Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 and Y^5 independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms,

~~and their salts, hydrates and/or solvates and their tautomeric forms~~ or a salt or tautomer thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents an aryl or heteroaryl ring,

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently from each other represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$, hydroxy or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxy}$, wherein $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkyl}$ and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxy}$ can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$,

R^4 represents $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkylcarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6\text{-alkenoxycarbonyl}$, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{10}\text{-arylaminocarbonyl}$, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, hetero-cyclyl or cyano, wherein $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkylcarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$, mono- and di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$ can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8\text{-cycloalkyl}$, hydroxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxy}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkoxycarbonyl}$, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkylaminocarbonyl}$, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-}$

alkylcarbonylamino, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and tri-(C₁-C₆-alkyl)-silyl,

R⁵ represents C₁-C₄-alkyl, which can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenoxy, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₆-alkylamino, arylamino, hydroxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and the radical -O-C₁-C₄-alkyl-O-C₁-C₄-alkyl,

R⁶ represents

— a group of the formula -T-U wherein

T represents a C₁-C₄-alkanediyl or C₂-C₄-alkenediyl group

and

U represents

- C₆-C₁₀-aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl each of which is substituted by one, two or three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and a group of the formula -V-W wherein V represents a bond, a C₂-C₆-alkenediyl group or a C₁-C₆-alkenediyl group the latter of which can be further substituted by C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, and W represents C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxy-carbonyl,
- a group of the formula -C(=O)-NH-SO₂-R^b wherein R^b represents C₁-C₆-alkyl which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^b represents C₆-C₁₀-aryl which can be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, cyano, nitro or trifluoromethyl,

or

- a group of the formula $-C(=O)-NHR^d$ wherein R^d represents C_6 - C_{10} -aryl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

R^6 represents

- C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl which can be substituted by up to three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy-carbonyl and hydroxycarbonyl,

or

- C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxy-carbonyl,

R^7 represents halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, hydroxy or C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

and

Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 and Y^5 independently from each other represent CH or N, wherein the ring contains either 0, 1 or 2 nitrogen atoms.

3. (Currently Amended) Compounds A compound of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents a phenyl, naphthyl or pyridyl ring,

R^1 , R^2 and R^3 independently from each other represent hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, methyl, ethyl, trifluoromethyl or trifluoromethoxy,

R^4 represents C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, allyloxycarbonyl, hydroxy-carbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl,

furylcarbonyl, pyridyl-carbonyl or cyano, wherein C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl and mono-C₁-C₄-alkylaminocarbonyl can be substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, amino, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino,

R⁵ represents methyl or ethyl,

R⁶ represents

— a group of the formula -T-U wherein

T represents a C₁-C₄-alkanediyl group

and

U represents

- phenyl, furyl, thienyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl or pyridyl each of which is substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, C₁-C₄-alkyl, thienyl, pyridyl and a group of the formula -V-W wherein V represents a bond or a C₁-C₄-alkanediyl or C₂-C₄-alkenediyl group, and W represents C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,
 - a group of the formula -C(=O)-NH-SO₂-R^b wherein R^b represents C₁-C₄-alkyl which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^b represents phenyl which can be substituted by C₁-C₄-alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro or trifluoromethyl,
- or
- a group of the formula -C(=O)-NHR^d wherein R^d represents phenyl which can be substituted by C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

R⁶ represents

- C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl which can be substituted by up to two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₄-alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl and hydroxycarbonyl,

or

- C₂-C₄-alkenyl which is substituted by C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

R⁷ represents halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, methyl or ethyl,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) according to Claim 1, wherein

A represents a phenyl or a pyridyl ring,

R¹ and R³ each represent hydrogen,

R² represents fluoro, chloro, bromo, nitro or cyano,

R⁴ represents cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, furylcarbonyl, pyridylcarbonyl, C₁-C₄-alkyl-carbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, wherein C₁-C₄-alkylcarbonyl and C₁-C₄-alkoxy-carbonyl can be substituted with a radical selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, mono- and di-C₁-C₄-alkylamino,

R⁵ represents methyl,

R⁶ represents

- a group of the formula -T-U wherein

T represents a $-CH_2-$ group

and

U represents

- phenyl, furyl or oxazolyl each of which is substituted by one or two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and a group of the formula $-V-W$ wherein V represents a bond, a $-CH_2-$ group or a $-CH=CH-$ group, and W represents C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,
- a group of the formula $-C(=O)-NH-SO_2-R^b$ wherein R^b represents C_1 - C_4 -alkyl which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^b represents phenyl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro or trifluoromethyl,

or

- a group of the formula $-C(=O)-NHR^d$ wherein R^d represents phenyl which can be substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

R^6 represents

- C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl which can be substituted by up to two radicals independently selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy-carbonyl and hydroxycarbonyl,

or

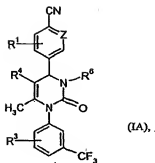
- a $-CH=CH-$ group which is substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxy-carbonyl,

R⁷ represents trifluoromethyl or nitro,

and

Y¹, Y², Y³, Y⁴ and Y⁵ each represent CH.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein A is phenyl or pyridyl.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R¹ is hydrogen.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R² is cyano.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R³ is hydrogen.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkoxycarbonyl optionally substituted by hydroxy, or wherein R⁴ is C₁-C₄-alkyl-carbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl or cyano.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R⁵ is methyl.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (I) ~~according to any of the preceding claims- according to Claim 1~~, wherein R⁷ is trifluoromethyl or nitro.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~Compounds~~ A compound of general formula (IA)



wherein

Z represents CH or N, and

R^1 , R^3 , R^4 and R^6 have the meaning indicated in any of the preceding claims

R^1 and R^3 , independently from each other, represent hydrogen, halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, hydroxy or C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy and C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy,

R^4 represents trifluoromethylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylcarbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenoxycarbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- or di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl, C_6 - C_{10} -arylaminocarbonyl, arylcarbonyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl or cyano, wherein C_1 - C_6 -alkyl-carbonyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxycarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylaminocarbonyl can be further substituted with one to three identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl, hydroxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy-carbonyl, hydroxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino-carbonyl, C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonylamino, N -(C_1 - C_4 -alkylcarbonyl)- N -(C_1 - C_4 -alkyl)-amino, cyano, amino, mono- and di- C_1 - C_4 -alkylamino, heteroaryl, heterocyclyl and tri-(C_1 - C_6 -alkyl)-silyl, and wherein heteroarylcarbonyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heteroaryl and heterocyclyl can be further substituted with C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

and,

R^6 represents

– a group of the formula -T-U wherein

T represents a C₁-C₆-alkanediyl or C₂-C₆-alkenediyl group

and

U represents

- C₆-C₁₀-aryl or 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl each of which is substituted by one, two or three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl and a group of the formula -V-W wherein V represents a bond or a C₁-C₆-alkanediyl or C₂-C₆-alkenediyl group both of which can be further substituted by C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl, and W represents C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,
- a group of the formula -C(=O)-NR^a-SO₂-R^b wherein R^a represents hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^b represents C₁-C₆-alkyl which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R^b represents C₆-C₁₀-aryl which can be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, cyano, nitro or trifluoromethyl,
- a group of the formula -C(=O)-NR^cR^d wherein R^c represents hydrogen or C₁-C₆-alkyl, and R^d represents C₆-C₁₀-aryl which can be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,
- C₆-C₁₀-arylalkoxy which, in the aryl part, can be substituted by halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

R⁶ represents

- C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl which can be substituted by up to three radicals independently selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₆-alkoxy-carbonyl and hydroxycarbonyl,

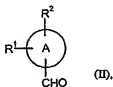
- C₂-C₆-alkenyl which can be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxy-carbonyl,
- C₁-C₆-alkyl or C₁-C₆-alkylcarbonyl which are substituted by C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl-amino,
- C₃-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl which is substituted by phenyl-C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl which for its part, in the phenyl moiety, can be further substituted by halogen, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxycarbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl,

or

- a group of the formula -SO₂-R⁸ wherein R⁸ represents C₁-C₆-alkyl which can be substituted by trifluoromethyl, or R⁸ represents C₆-C₁₀-aryl which can be substituted by C₁-C₆-alkyl, halogen, cyano, nitro, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy-carbonyl or hydroxycarbonyl

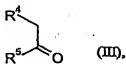
or a salt or tautomer thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) A process ~~Process~~ for synthesizing ~~the compounds of general a~~ a compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1, by condensing ~~compounds of general a~~ a compound of formula (II)



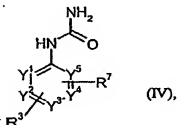
wherein A, R¹ and R² have the meaning indicated in Claim 1,

with ~~compounds of general a~~ a compound of formula (III)



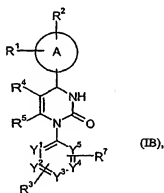
wherein R^4 and R^5 have the meaning indicated in Claim 1,

and compounds of general a compound of formula (IV)



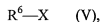
wherein R^3 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in Claim 1,

to give compounds of the general a compound of formula (IB)



wherein A, R^1 to R^5 , R^7 , and Y^1 to Y^5 have the meaning indicated in Claim 1,

followed by reaction of the ~~compounds of general~~ compound of formula (IB) with
~~compounds of the general~~ a compound of formula (V)



wherein

R^6 has the meaning indicated in Claim 1, and

X represents a leaving group,

in the presence of a base.

14. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A composition ~~containing~~ comprising at least one compound of ~~general~~ formula (I) according to Claim 1 and a pharmacologically acceptable diluent.

15-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method of treatment of acute and chronic inflammatory, ischaemic and/or remodelling processes in a human or animal comprising administering to a human or animal an amount of at least one compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1.
22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the process is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute coronary syndrome, acute myocardial infarction or development of heart failure.
23. (New) A method for inhibiting neutrophil elastase in a human or animal comprising administering to a human or animal an amount of at least one compound of formula (I) according to Claim 1.